SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017

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$2.00

CHANCE OF STORMS
High: 59
Low: 38
90% chance of rain

Sunday: Sunny, 53/36
Monday: Sunny, 62/43
Tuesday: Sunny, 67/46

Details on the back of **Metro**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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NATION/WORLD, A5
REPORT: FIRST CHARGES OK'D IN MUELLER INVESTIGATION

SPORTS, C1
WHY TECH FACES CHALLENGE IN NIGHT GAME AT CLEMSON



LIVING, D1
BOOK INDOOR WATER PARK NOW

GEORGIA VS. FLORIDA



Bulldog spirit strong in Florida before today's big game

Kandy Wright (from left), Chris Youngblood, Shauna Branch, Cindy Turner and Kristine Bassett show their Bulldog spirit as they tailgate in the RV lot across from EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Fla., on Friday. The women, from Lake Park, Ga., are among the thousands of fans who made the trek to root for the Bulldogs in today's Georgia-Florida football game. Georgia will be looking for its first victory since losing the last three contests, and kicker Rodrigo Blankenship will hope to continue on pace to break one of Kevin Butler's school records. **More in Sports, Page C1** BOB ANDRES / BANDRES@AJC.COM

CRISIS IN SPAIN

Spain quashes drive for independence by Catalonia

Prime minister calls region's move 'criminal act'; rift could escalate.

By Artiz Parra and Ciaran Giles
Associated Press

BARCELONA, SPAIN — In one of the most momentous days in recent Spanish history, Spain fired Catalonia's regional government and dissolved its parliament Friday after a defiant Catalan declaration of independence that flouted the country's constitution.

Lawmakers in the Catalan parliament voted to unilaterally declare independence, prompting the swift crackdown by the Spanish government, which also called an early election in the region.

Hours after Catalonia's secession move, the Spanish Senate granted the government special constitutional powers to stop the wealthy region's move toward independence.



People wave "estelada" or pro-independence flags Friday outside the Palau Generalitat in Barcelona, Spain. Catalonia attempted to establish an independent Catalan Republic, but Spain dissolved its parliament and called for early elections. EMILIO MORENATTI / AP

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government then called an urgent Cabinet meeting late Friday, after which Rajoy emerged to announce the emergency measures, including regional elections called for

Spain continued on **A2**

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Governments left in a bind by tax delays

Revenue accounts for two-thirds of the money schools bring in.

By Arielle Kass
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The state's rejection of Fulton County's tax digest won't cause immediate harm to most local governments, which said they had reserves to cover the cost of doing business for anywhere from three to six months.

But property taxes account for 70 percent of Fulton County's revenue, and nearly two-thirds of the money the county's two school districts bring in. When the state Department of Revenue decided this week to stop Fulton County from sending its tax bills this month, it created a cash-flow problem for those governments and others.

But consider the plight of the new city of South Fulton.

Mayor Bill Edwards said his government is already living on borrowed time…and borrowed money.

Since the government formed May 1, "we have not collected not one dollar of property taxes," Edwards said. The government has a $13 million loan that has to be paid back at the end of the year, and Edwards said he plans to go to the bank to see if they can help him find a solution.

WHAT'S NEXT
A hearing to determine whether Fulton can collect taxes will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Superior Court of Fulton County. If the judge allows the taxes to be collected, it will be several days before bills are sent. In Atlanta, taxes are due 45 days after bills are mailed; in the rest of Fulton it is 60 days. Fulton has asked the court to shorten the period to 45 days countywide.

Fulton taxes continued on **A5**

INDICTMENT SOUGHT

DA seeks to charge deputies with murder

Video shows Tasers' use on unarmed man in Washington County.

By Christian Boone
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It was a long walk, some 20 miles from his home in Milledgeville to relatives living in the rural community of Deep Step. But 58-year-old Euree Martin made the trek routinely, without incident.

But on July 7, someone observing Martin just walking down the street thought he was acting suspiciously and called 911. Three Washington County deputies responded and attempted to take him into custody, despite no evidence that Martin had broken any laws, according to the GBI.

Video showed the deputies hovering over Martin, deploying their Tasers to get him to submit.



Lee Copeland



Michael Howell



Rhett Scott

After multiple shocks, Martin went into respiratory distress and died.

Now, Heyward Altman, district attorney for Georgia's Middle Judicial Circuit, says he will seek indictments of the three ex-lawmen on charges including felony murder, involuntary manslaughter, false imprisonment and aggravated assault.

Deputies continued on **A8**

SPOOKY PROPOSITION

Would you buy a haunted home?

33% say they would purchase house with ghosts, survey shows.

By Michael E. Kanell
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When it comes to spooky real estate, Bruce Ailion considers himself pretty blase.

The Woodstock Realtor has marketed houses where people have died of natural causes, houses where people were murdered, houses that sit next door to cemeteries. But this time of year, he's reminded how many people are squeamish about death, unsure about spirits, and how the line tends to blur.

Realtor.com recently asked 1,000 people if they'd consider buying a supposedly haunted house and 40 percent of them said no way, crossed their fingers and knocked on wood. Almost 33 percent, however, were open to the idea. Under the right circumstances.

Among the open-minded, 40 percent took the tried-and-true, all-American approach. They would want a discount.

Haunted continued on **A8**

BUSINESS, A9
Why CVS Health would want to buy Aetna
The Wall Street Journal reports that CVS Health had made a proposal to buy the health insurer for as much as $66 billion.

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